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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR

1 9 5 2

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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wardle Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report  
on the Health and Mortality of your district during 1952.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(i)	Area in Acres	3,192
(ii)	Population 1931 Census	4,893
	Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population 1950	4,684
(iii)	Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952, according to the rate book.	1,436
(iv)	Rateable value	£31,450
(v)	Sum represented by a penny rate	£131.0.10d.
(vi)	Industries - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- cotton and woollen manufacturing, silk weaving, wallpaper printing, dairy farming and light engineering.	
(vii)	Unemployment - Some unemployment occurred during the trade recession in summer.	

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	61	28	33
Illegitimate	1	1	2
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age			
Legitimate	2	1	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

13.0

Still Births:-

Rate per 1,00 (live and still) births Nil

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths	51	30	21

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	10.9
Adjusted	8.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 (Live &amp; Still Births.)</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 32

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate  
live births. 32

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate  
live births Nil

Death from Cancer (all ages)	7
Death from Measles (all ages)	-
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-



Estimated Population Mid. 1952.	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births.
Year 1951	13.2	12.1	16
Year 1952	13.2	10.9	32
Previous year	Nil.	-1.2	+16

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### Smallpox.

During the months of February and March, Alastrim was prevalent in the adjoining areas and some 28 first contacts lived in this district. All were kept under observation for 16 days but no actual case was confirmed. One person was removed to an isolation hospital but was discharged as clear within a few days.

### Scarlet Fever.

One case reported and nursed at home.

### Diphtheria.

Again there were no cases.

### Enteric Fever.

No cases.

### Whooping Cough.

24 cases were notified.

### Measles.

34 cases were notified.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year and both occurred at Birch Hill Hospital.

### Erysipelas.

Two cases notified from Birch Hill Hospital.

### Tuberculosis.

33~~2~~ new cases were notified, thirty-<sup>one</sup>~~three~~ from Birch Hill and two in the Urban District.

### Sonne Dysentery.

10 cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred in Birch Hill Hospital.

### Anthrax.

No cases.

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1952.  
(including cases notified from Birch Hill)

"NOTIFIABLE DISEASES".	Total cases at all ages.	Total cases notified							Total deaths.	Hospital	
		Years								Total cases removed to Hospital from District.	Death in hospital of persons belonging to district.
		0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45			
Smallpox.....	1				1						
Scarlet Fever.....	1										
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)...	-										
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid).....	-										
Paratyphoid Fever.....	-										
Measles (excluding Rubella).....	34		3	10	20	1					
Whooping Cough.....	24	2	5	6	11						
Acute Pneumonia.....	-										
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2						2				
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	-										
Acute Poliomyelitis..	-										
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.....	-										
Acute Encephalitis	-										
Lethargica.....	-										
Dysentery.....	10		2	1	5	2					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-										
Erysipelas.....	2							1	1		
Malaria.....	-										
Food Poisoning.....	-										
Anthrax.....	-										
	73	2	10	17	36	4	2	1	1	Nil	Nil
										Nil	Nil



TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS.New cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods. Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	1	2	-	1				
1 -	1	-	-	-				
2 -	-	-	4	-				
5 -	-	1	2	1				
10 -	-	-	-	-				
15 -	-	-	2	-				
20 -	-	1	-	-				
25 -	2	1	-	-				
35 -	-	-	-	-				
45 -	3	2	2	1				
55 -	2	1	-	-				
65 -	1	1	-	-				
75 and upwards	-	-	-	-				
Age unknown	-	-	1	-				
					None Known.			



Generally.

It is pleasing to note that no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Poliomyelitis, or Cerebro-Spinal Fever have occurred. There were no epidemics during the year which need particular mention.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED in 1952, apart from Tuberculosis, were 73 as compared with 57 in 1951 and a comparative table below:-

	1951.	1952.
Scarlet Fever	8	1
Diphtheria	-	-
Measles	17	34
Whooping Cough	18	24
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Puerpural Pyrexia	9	2
Erysipelas	1	2
Acute Pneumonia	1	-
Sonne Dysentery	3	10
	<u>57</u>	<u>73</u>

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1952:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Cancer	3	4
Diabetes	-	-
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	3
Heart Diseases	6	9
Diseases of circulatory system	4	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Ulcers of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis or Diarrhoea	-	-
Influenza	1	-
Motor Accidents	1	-
All other causes	7	2
	<u>30</u>	<u>21</u>

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding un-notifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. John L. Seago and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

31st August, 1953.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

For the year 1952 I have to report as follows:-

GENERAL SURVEY.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No complaints about the quality of the effluent were received during the year although wear on the filter arms did not allow the proper dosage on the filter media. The structure of the detritus tanks did not worsen during the year.

The sewers throughout the area have been sufficient at all times and again I can report a trouble-free year as far as the two syphons in Dyehouse Lane are concerned. The only repair needed to the Ejector was the replacement of a mercury switch.

The sewers were treated for rats twice during the year and post-baiting showed no infestation.

Infectious Diseases.

One case of Scarlet Fever was nursed at home and with no other cases either of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria no hospital services have been required.

House Refuse.

House refuse removed on 39 occasions during the year, and disposal is by controlled tipping at Ashbrook. Nightsoil from pails is also collected and after mixing with ashes is tipped at Ashbrook. No infestation has occurred but twice during the year small fires on the tip were extinguished. Both were caused by persons unknown bringing rubbish and setting it on fire close to the face of the tip.

Slaughterhouses.

Again only a few self-supply pigs were killed in one of the two licensed slaughterhouses.



## Shops.

Meat shops continue to maintain a good standard and on the whole the small house and shop traders have kept abreast with the times and introduced refrigerators in greater numbers. Bakehouses are attached to three shops, and have maintained a good standard.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

Only 3% of the houses in the district have to rely on wells or springs for their water supply. The remaining 97% have a piped supply which is sufficient and suitable for all domestic purposes. The problem of the trouble caused by pressure and deposits, mentioned last year, is still with us.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extensions during the year and the properties still unsewered are either outlying or low lying and are unconnected for economical or engineering reasons.

At the works the sewage is treated by precipitation tanks, continuous filter and humus treatment. Storm overflow treatment during wet periods is available.

### Rivers and Streams.

The River Roch continues to be polluted and the attention of the Rivers Board has been drawn to its condition as it enters the Wardle U.D.C. boundary.

### Closet Accommodation.

The contribution payable by the Council as an inducement to owners to convert obsolete closets to fresh water flush type is £8 for each pail closet and £4 for each waste water closet.

### Smoke Abatement.

56 observations were taken during the year 16 of which exceeded three minutes black smoke emission. One mill was guilty 12 times and two others twice each. One chimney gave out black smoke for 8 minutes in one half hour. There does seem the need for smoke byelaws in this area as it was found that the worst offender was able to continue working at

normal rates and give off no black smoke when fired by the manager himself at the correct firing rate.

#### Schools.

The three schools in the district are maintained in good order and arrangements are in hand for wash-basins at one school to be replaced.

#### Offensive Trade.

No nuisance has occurred from the only fellmonger in the district.

#### Housing.

No Council houses were built during the year whilst nine private houses were completed. Several owner/occupiers improved their houses by the addition of bathrooms with hot and cold running water. There was no clearance or demolition schemes made and no houses re-conditioned under notice from the Council.

### TABLE III.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1930</u>
Privy Middens	28	28	55
No. of closets attached to Middens	26	26	55
No. of Pail Closets	79	79	156
No. of dry Ashpits	4	4	9
No. of Ashbins	1,251	1,241	473
No. of houses on Water Carriage System	950	943	444

During the year there were no conversions to fresh water flush closets.



TABLE IV.  
INSPECTIONS. 1952.

	<u>Visits or</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Defects.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Housing .....	161	41	36
Factories .....	71	0	0
Food Premises. ....	41	0	0
Slaughterhouses.....	3	0	0
Bakehouses .....	10	0	0
Nuisances & others.....	594	125	109
	<u>880</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>145</u>

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. John L. Seago, Clerk of the Council, and the staff, for the ready and willing held on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

W. OLDHAM,  
Sanitary Inspector.



TABLE V.

LIST OF ACTS AND SECTIONS  
THEREOF ADOPTED BY THE WARDLE URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III)  
Adopted 15th May, 1891.
  2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.  
Adopted 6th April, 1899.
  3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts  
II and III (excepting S48) IV and V. Operative  
from 5th October, 1911.
  4. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operative from  
5th October, 1911.
  5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative  
from 13th October, 1914.
  6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV).  
Operative from 31st January, 1927.
  7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899-1923.  
Adopted 2nd August, 1934.
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Observations as to their administration :-

Good.

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